



We are
HERE *for*
TEXAS
Women

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Women

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HONORING

We honor outstanding
Texas women of achievement.



More than 100 talented and
pioneering Texas women are part
of the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

ENCOURAGING

We encourage Texas women and girls
to pursue careers in science, technology,
engineering and mathematics.



U.S. women currently hold only
25 percent of jobs in these high-
paying and high-demand fields.

ASSISTING

We promote workforce training and employment of female job-seekers ages 50 and older.



Today, 1.5 million aged 55 to 64 are unemployed in The United States, including many women re-entering the job market after the death of a spouse.

SUPPORTING

We offer Texas' military families and veterans emergency financial assistance, resources and support through our partner organizations.



Texas has the highest population of female veterans in the United States, and is home to the largest military base in the country. There are 1.2 million military families living in Texas.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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On behalf of the Texas Governor's Commission for Women, I am pleased to present the 2011-2013 biennial report. For 46 years, the commission has served the needs of Texas women and their families. Currently, the commission focuses its resources on three initiatives – empowering girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math, promoting workforce training and employment opportunities for women beyond the age of 50, and providing assistance to Texas military families.

During Gov. Rick Perry's administration, the commission has created a permanent Texas Women's Hall of Fame exhibit; launched a statewide education initiative promoting healthy teen dating for more than 27,000 students; donated more than \$350,000 through the Beacon State Fund to causes impacting women and children; responded to more than 1,000 requests from women for referral assistance; provided free professional development training to hundreds

of state employees; recognized 45 women's achievements at awards ceremonies; and launched numerous statewide public awareness campaigns.

During the 2011-2013 term, the Commission:

- Partnered with the Texas Girls Collaborative Project and Girlstart to promote women's participation in the high-demand STEM fields
- Hosted the Beyond 50... Ready, Set, Go! Conference for women over 50
- Hosted a military suicide prevention symposium and participated in the Texas Veterans Commission's annual summit

In addition, the commission honored 38 female legislators for their service to our state, inducted five incredibly accomplished women into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, and sponsored a breast cancer awareness event.

It has been an honor serving as chair, and I am grateful to have worked with such a talented, passionate and dedicated group of commissioners. I am very proud of what we have accomplished over the years, and am thankful to the commissioners for enthusiastically working to achieve our mission. Many thanks to our executive director, Lesley Guthrie, for her tireless work for the commission. Most importantly, I would like to extend our gratitude to Gov. Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry for their continuous support of the commission's effort to advance the status of women throughout Texas.

Sincerely,



Carol Peterson

Governor's Commission for Women Chair

COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENTS

{Under the Perry Administration}

2001-2003:

Established the Texas Women's Hall of Fame permanent exhibit at Texas Woman's University, collected cell phones for victims of abuse, hosted The Austin Women's Business Forum and launched a domestic violence public awareness campaign

2005-2007:

Hosted the "Make Mine A Million \$" Business Competition at the Texas Conference for Women and the 40th Anniversary celebration for the Texas Governor's Commission for Women

2009-2011:

Hosted a conference for women beyond 50, produced a public service announcement with Texas First Lady Anita Perry for military families, and supported the Girls in STEM Conference

2003-2005:

Participated in the American Heart Association's Go Red Campaign, sponsored a health education tent at the Texas Round-Up, created a brochure for perpetrators of domestic violence and produced tool kits on healthy teen dating for more than 27,000 students

2007-2009:

Provided hundreds of women with job search assistance in South Texas, hosted the Fit Kid's Fun Zone at the Texas Round-Up and sponsored public service announcements on domestic violence prevention

2011-2013:

Hosted a military suicide prevention symposium, a conference for women beyond the age of 50, and sponsored statewide STEM role model training workshops

HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

Following President John F. Kennedy's establishment in 1961 of the United States Commission on the Status of Women, similar state and local commissions were also established across the country. The Texas Governor's Commission for Women was created by executive order in 1967 by Gov. John Connally, and continues to thrive 46 years later.

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The governor appoints commissioners to two-year terms. Those interested in applying to serve on the commission should visit **www.governor.state.tx.us/appointments/process** for information on the appointment process and to download an application.



2011-2013 GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN:

{ Pictured from back row, left to right }

Julie Crosswell
Stephanie Cavender
Carol Peterson

Becky McKinley
Carmen Pagan
Gina Bridwell

Ivy Pate
Lesley Guthrie
Cynthia Jenkins

Connie Weeks
Lisa Lucero
Claudia Kreisle

BEACON STATE FUND

The Governor's Commission for Women is supported by the Governor's Office and the Beacon State Fund, a non-profit organization established in 1996 to educate and improve Texans' civic participation by promoting community leadership and volunteerism. The organization funds many of the commission's important projects.

TEXAS IS
HOME TO THE
SECOND HIGHEST
NUMBER OF
WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESSES



THE BEACON STATE FUND:

{ Pictured from left to right }

Connie Weeks | Melissa Jackson | Rita Kreisle

STATE AGENCY COUNCIL

The State Agency Council was established by Gov. Mark White in 1983 to support the goals of the Governor's Commission for Women, while providing professional development training and community service. Members of the State Agency Council are appointed by the executive director of each state agency at the governor's request. Agencies appoint one member and one alternate to serve a two-year appointment.



THE STATE AGENCY COUNCIL:

{ Pictured from left to right with the Hon. Susan Combs }

*Yolanda Hall
Judy Schooling
Avis O'Reilly
Gabriela Klein*

*Hon. Susan Combs
Jo Dale Guzman
Lesley Guthrie
Lara Tai*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In December 2012, State Agency Council members donated garments to Dress for Success in support of women veterans transitioning out of the military or recovering from homelessness. Dress for Success is an international non-profit organization that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help them prosper.

In March 2013, the State Agency Council sponsored 20 female soldiers from Camp Mabry to tour the *Women Shaping Texas in the 20th Century* exhibit at the Texas State History Museum. In December 2013, the State Agency Council is partnering with The Comfort Crew for Military Kids, a non-profit organization that helps children cope with pre-deployment, separation and reintegration when a loved one is deployed in the U.S. Military. To help provide support and

companionship to children struggling with the deployment of a parent, the State Agency Council will sponsor and prepare deployment kits for children, including an animated DVD, writing journal, caregiver booklet, postcards, a plush bear and imprinted dog tags.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The State Agency Council hosts complimentary, monthly membership meetings. Nationally recognized speakers present on a variety of topics such as leadership, personal branding, professional networking, women's health issues and financial planning.

TEXAS WOMEN
ARE VITAL TO
OUR STATE'S
ECONOMY.

WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT AWARDS

The State Agency Council created the Outstanding Women in Texas Government in 1984, a biennial event to honor women who contribute their time, talents and skills to serve the State of Texas and do not hold elected or appointed positions. More than 80 female state employees have been recognized through this awards program since its inception.

Individuals are nominated by state agency directors and selected by an independent panel of judges. A luncheon ceremony was held on September 12, 2012 at the Frank Erwin Center featuring Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs as keynote speaker.



2012 OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT HONOREES:

Major General Joyce L. Stevens

Texas Military Forces (Texas Army National Guard)
Outstanding Management Award

Gay Dodson, R. Ph.

Texas State Board of Pharmacy
Outstanding Professional Development Award

Amie Treuer-Kuehn

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Outstanding Contribution Award

Raette Smith Hearne

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Outstanding Community Involvement Award

EVENTS

2013 LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

On March 10, 2013, The Governor's Commission for Women hosted a luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel Austin to honor the 38 women serving in Texas Legislature.

This biennial event gives the commission an opportunity to highlight the difference women have made in the Texas Legislature, while raising awareness of the commission's work. The 2013 luncheon highlighted several organizations that serve our military in Texas:

F7 Group
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Military Mentoring Program
Carry The Load
Help Our Wounded
The Texas Coalition of Veteran Women
Texas Veterans Commission

Proceeds generated from the biennial event help fund the commission's programs and initiatives to assist women and girls. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the Governor's Commission for Women raised \$21,000 for the Beacon State Fund, a non-profit.

NACW CONFERENCE

The Governor's Commission for Women helped coordinate and attended the annual National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) conferences in July 2012 and July 2013. Commission Executive Director Lesley Guthrie serves on the NACW Board of Directors and is the NACW conference planning co-chair.

The Governor's Commission for Women was pleased to bring the F7 Group to the 2012 NACW Conference in West Virginia to share their efforts in Texas and nationally to help female veterans.

“*I am grateful to the Governor's Commission for Women for giving the F7 Group the opportunity to share my story at the NACW Conference. It is not only refreshing to see that the entire nation is interested in helping women veterans – but that we are fortunate to live in a state that is setting the standard. Women in Texas, like you, uplift the mission of our women in military families and we could not do this without your support.*”

– Cassaundra St. John, F7 Group

At the 2013 NACW Conference, the Governor's Commission for Women received an award from the NACW Healthy BONES Committee for its accomplishments in and commitment to reducing the effects of osteoporosis fractures in women. The Healthy BONES Project is the national project of NACW, aimed to develop, deploy and sustain resources to take effective action in the fight against osteoporosis.



Women attend the 42nd Annual NACW Conference in Charleston, West Virginia

WOMEN SHAPING TEXAS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

In conjunction with The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and Texas Woman's University, the Texas Governor's Commission for Women hosted a lecture celebrating the *Women Shaping Texas in the 20th Century*. Dr. Ann Stuart, chancellor and president of Texas Woman's University, led a discussion on the importance and challenges of educating future generations of Texas women.

IN 2013,
WOMEN-OWNED
FIRMS EMPLOYED
NEARLY 8.6 MILLION
PEOPLE IN
THE U.S.



*Suffrage parade, May 4, 1912,
Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and
Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.*

EVENTS

TEXAS CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

The Texas Conference for Women is hosted by Texas First Lady Anita Perry at the Austin Convention Center. This non-profit, non-partisan event is the largest of its kind in Texas and one of the largest women's conferences in the country, with more than 100 renowned speakers from across the state and the nation. The conference is a unique experience for the 5,000 Texans who attend for networking, professional development and personal growth.

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IN THE U.S.,
WOMEN-OWNED
COMPANIES
GENERATED OVER
\$1.3 TRILLION
DOLLARS
IN 2013

Participants attend conference workshops on topics such as health, small business and fiscal management, and also have the opportunity to participate in the Career Pavilion, which offers resumé critiquing, mentor matches, and a LinkedIn Lounge.

Each year, the Governor's Commission for Women hosts a booth to educate conference attendees about the commission's efforts to help Texas women. At the 2012 conference, the commission distributed food and fitness diaries provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health. For more information about the conference, please visit the web site www.texasconferenceforwomen.org.



State Agency Council volunteers staff the Governor's Commission for Women booth at the Texas Conference for Women

OUTREACH

CONSTITUENT CASEWORK

The Governor's Commission for Women received 179 constituent requests between January 1, 2011 and October 31, 2013. The staff at the commission provides constituents with referrals to various service providers, mediates on their behalf, or in some cases, makes contact with the appropriate state agency representatives to aid in resolving an issue. The majority of cases requested were financial assistance, legal aid and employment concerns.

IN 2013,
SAN ANTONIO
WOMEN-OWNED
FIRMS SHOWED THE
MOST ECONOMIC
GROWTH

“The Governor’s Commission for Women provided me with the immediate assistance and support I needed in order to get back on my feet. We talked at great length about promoting my new business, marketing strategies and resources to help me achieve my goals. With relevant and productive referrals, I have been able to begin the process of rebuilding my life and my career.”

– C. Garza



OUTREACH

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Each October during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Governor's Commission for Women co-hosts a breast cancer awareness press event and reception for survivors. For more than 16 years, the commission has brought together several breast cancer organizations to educate women that early detection through mammograms and regular self breast exams can save lives.

The 2013 statewide press event was held on October 23 on the steps of the Texas State Capitol Building. Participants wore pink to show their support and enjoyed musical entertainment by Sara Hickman, the Official State Musician of

Texas. Texas State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, a breast cancer survivor, served as the keynote speaker. Following the event, a reception was held to celebrate breast cancer survivors and honor those who have lost their fight.

The commission's partner agencies for this event include the Texas Department of State Health Services, Susan G. Komen for the Cure Austin Affiliate, American Cancer Society, and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.



State Representative and breast cancer survivor, Senfronia Thompson, addresses the crowd (above). Supporters on the Capitol steps (left).

HONORING TEXAS WOMEN

The Texas Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1984 by the Governor's Commission for Women to honor the remarkable achievements of Texas women while sharing their stories of determination and innovation. Past honorees include first ladies, entrepreneurs, Olympic athletes and astronauts. In 2003, the commission established a permanent exhibit for the Texas Women's Hall of Fame at Texas Woman's University in Denton. The 137 honorees' photographs and biographies are displayed throughout the exhibit.



The Texas Women's Hall of Fame



2012 TEXAS WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME HONOREES:

{ Pictured from left to right with Gov. Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry }

Major General Mary Saunders - Military

United States Air Force (Retired) and Director of the Leadership Institute at Texas Woman's University

Justice Harriet O'Neill - Public Service

Attorney, Former Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas

Nina Godiwalla - Business

Best-selling author and founder of Mind Works

Barbara Smith Conrad - Arts and Humanities

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano

Dr. Anne Corn - Education

Educator and advocate for persons with visual disabilities

ENCOURAGING STEM CAREERS

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM) GIRLS IN STEM CONFERENCE

The Governor's Commission for Women sponsored the Girls in STEM Conference at the University of Texas at Austin on March 31, 2012, a one-day program that provides 4th through 8th grade girls with hands-on learning experiences in STEM related fields and introduces girls to STEM careers. The conference brings 500 students together to learn about STEM careers from professional women throughout Central Texas. Girls attended interactive workshops with women who are professionals in the fields of pharmacy, veterinary medicine, biology, technology and engineering.

GIRLSTART

The Governor's Commission for Women financially supports Girlstart, a community based program that develops and implements a range of innovative, research-based education and mentoring programs that promote girls' early engagement and academic success in STEM. Girlstart also encourages post-secondary aspirations and persistence in the STEM pipeline among women and other under-represented groups, and develops a diverse STEM workforce for the 21st Century.

STEM IS
SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING
AND MATH

girlstart
AFTER SCHOOL
by the **NUMBERS**

875 **39** **11** **34**
Girls Programs Districts STEM CREW

92% Realized after participating that they use science outside of school.

95% Indicated an interest in entering a STEM career.

97% Expressed intent to attend college after high school.

ROLE MODEL TRAINING FOR GIRLS

The Governor's Commission for Women's non-profit donated \$5,000 to a Role Model Training Program through the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin's Women in Engineering Program.

IN 2013,
THE COCKRELL
SCHOOL SET A
RECORD WITH THE
HIGHEST PERCENTAGE
OF FEMALE FRESHMEN
AND THE LARGEST
NUMBER OF FEMALE
UNDERGRADUATES
ENROLLED

The program strives to increase the percentage of female engineering students by educating, empowering, and inspiring women to become leaders in engineering.

The workshops are based on role model research and targets educators, parents and other individuals interested in becoming role models to effectively engage and encourage girls to pursue STEM classes, majors and careers. The Role Model Training Program scheduled five workshops for Fall 2013. If you would like to attend an upcoming training, please contact Tricia Berry at triciaberry@utexas.edu.

2013 Role Model Training Dates and Locations:
Tuesday, September 24, 4 – 6 p.m., San Antonio
Wednesday, October 9, 6 – 8 p.m., Houston
Thursday, October 10, 8 – 10 a.m., Beaumont
Monday, November 18, 6 – 8 p.m., El Paso
Thursday, December 12, 4 – 6 p.m., McAllen



*Texas girls gain confidence
while exploring STEM activities*

ASSISTING WOMEN OVER 50

BEYOND 50...READY, SET, GO! CONFERENCE

In partnership with Texas Women in Business and Austin Community College, the Governor's Commission for Women hosted a conference for women over 50 interested in returning to work, changing professions and furthering their education. The BEYOND 50...READY, SET, GO! Conference was held on August 23, 2012. The conference addressed topics such as job readiness, entrepreneurship and the road to self-discovery and empowerment.

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1.5 MILLION
WOMEN AGE
55 - 64 ARE
UNEMPLOYED
IN THE U.S.



Women attend the “Beyond 50...Ready, Set, Go!” Conference in 2012

“My business, 1st Source Texas Realty, that started 2 weeks after “Beyond 50” 2011 is doing fabulous. It was the conference with the speakers, volunteers and all of the inspiration and motivation that made me take that “Leap of Faith” and start my own independent company.”

- S. Boyer



SINCE
1997, TEXAS
WOMEN-OWNED
FIRMS SHOWED
93% ECONOMIC
GROWTH

“The “Beyond 50” Conference was the exact boost I need to “SNAP” me out of it and find and follow my vision...It is the start of a new chapter for me.”

- T.J.



“I just wanted to thank you for all of your help with the scholarships for me and my friend. I am so glad we had the opportunity to go to the conference. It was amazing and truly changed my life! I look forward to attending next year!”

- M. Williams

SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

With more than 152,000 female veterans, Texas is home to the second largest number of women who served in the American armed forces. To support these heroes, the Governor's Commission for Women is helping military families meet their physical, emotional and financial needs by partnering with organizations such as Operation Home Front, the Warrior and Family Support Center, and 2-1-1.

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Commissioner Connie Weeks and Dr. Craig Bryan

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION ANNUAL SUMMIT

On February 13, 2013, the Governor's Commission for Women attended the Texas Veterans Commission's 15th Annual Summit. In an effort to raise awareness of issues and increase support for female veterans and their families, Commissioner Connie Weeks participated as a panelist at a session called "Designing Programs that Support Women Veterans."

14,000
MILITARY
FAMILIES WERE
IMPACTED BY THE
SYMPOSIUM THE
COMMISSION
HOSTED
ON PTSD

2013 TEXAS SUICIDE PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

On July 11, 2013 the Governor's Commission for Women hosted a special training event, "Understanding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Military Members Among Civilian Communities" with Mental Health of America of Texas. The event featured Dr. Craig Bryan, a board-certified clinical psychologist in cognitive behavioral psychology, who is associate director at the National Center for Veterans' Studies at the University of Utah.

"It was very informative to get the knowledge presented today. I appreciate the opportunity to do that and appreciate those researchers and clinicians that have a passion to continue to work with veterans and current military personnel and family."

– Conference Attendee

“*I enjoyed the symposium and learned a lot of things that will help me truly understand the Veterans better. Thanks a lot and hope to see you all again next year.*”

– *Conference Attendee*

DONATION TO THE MILITARY MENTORING PROGRAM

In an effort to support military families, the Governor's Commission for Women made a financial contribution to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas Military Mentoring Program. This program supports children in military families and engages active duty, reserve or retired/separated military personnel, as well as civilians as volunteer mentors. The Military Mentoring program serves children of military families by offering a friend and an ally to offer new experiences and opportunities that once seemed out of reach.

CARRY THE LOAD

The Governor's Commission for Women made a financial contribution to Carry the Load, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the meaning of Memorial Day. The 20.13 mile event honors military members, law enforcement officers, firefighters and their families for their sacrifices in hopes to raise awareness of what Memorial Day actually is.



TEXAS IS
HOME TO THE
SECOND LARGEST
NUMBER OF
WOMEN WHO
SERVE IN THE
MILITARY



A volunteer and child are matched thanks to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas Military Mentoring Program



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COMMISSION
FOR WOMEN

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